Office of the County Executive, Roane County Kingston, TN Page 1 of 1

Executive Offices (865) 376-5578 FAX (865) 717-4215 email: kyager@roanegov.org

Accounting Department (865) 376-5553 FAX (865) 376-5671

Office of the County Executive
Roane County Tennessee

200 E. Race Street • Suite 1 P.O. Box 643 Kingston, Tennessee 37763

January 9, 2001

Mr. Gary S, Hartman U. S, Department of Energy Oak Ridge Operations Office Post Office Box 2001 Oak Ridge TN 37831

Dear Mr. Hartman:

Roane County has great interest in all activities associated with the Department of Energy (DOE) Oak Ridge Complex. Much of this complex is sited in Roane County and many Roane Countians have worked in critical national security positions there for the past fifty years. For this reason, it is most appropriate as Roane County Executive that I provide comments on the Draft Site-Wide Environmental Impact Statement (SWEIS) for the Oak Ridge Y-12 Plant.

The Y-12 Plant plays a critical role in ensuring our national security. I fully support the continued long-term role of Y-12 remaining the Department of Energy (DOE) primary site for enriched uranium operations and storage related to the nation's nuclear weapons program. I also strongly support the construction of new facilities for these missions as presented in this Draft SWEIS.

As the Y-12 Plant prepares for its continued long-term national security mission, modernization certainly makes sense. I understand that many of the facilities at Y-12 are over forty years old. The modernization of the Y-12 Plant processes and facilities, and the construction of new facilities for some missions, will ensure continued long-term rapid response by Y-12 to its national security role while reducing operating costs and more effectively meeting health, safety and environmental requirements. This is important to Roane County.

I appreciate this opportunity to offer comments. I am requesting these comments be included in the public hearing record for the Draft SWEIS.

Yours truly,

Ken Yager

KY:sl

Comment No. 1 Comment noted.

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